

# MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST PLAN REVISION



## System Drivers and Stressors

**System Drivers** is one the 15 topics addressed in the Assessment Phase of Plan Revision. **System Drivers** include “...dominant ecological processes, disturbance regimes, and stressors, such as natural succession, wildland fire, invasive species, and climate change...”<sup>1</sup>

The Forest is in the process of identifying and collecting corresponding data on specific **drivers**, **stressors**, **existing conditions**, and **trends** on the Forest. In analyzing these data, the Forest’s specialists are seeking to answer the following questions:

- 13 What is known about the opportunities to reduce risk and adapt to system drivers, stressors, and the influence of climate change?
  - Ability of the ecosystem to adapt
  - Duration and return interval (trends); geographic extent
- 13 Have disturbance regimes changed since the reference period to a degree that impairs the function of ecosystem characteristics?
- 13 What uncharacteristic conditions exist that influence drivers?
- 13 Are stressors reversible by taking management actions? Are stressors under control of FS management?
  - Identify stressors resulting from other stressors, overlapping stressors, accumulating stressors

### Definitions:

**Drivers:** Dominant ecological processes that shape the ecosystem, including natural disturbance regimes; predominant climatic regimes; broad scale system drivers; and natural vegetation succession (FSH 1909.12, Ch. 10, § 12.31).





**Stressors:** Factors that may directly or indirectly degrade or impair ecosystem composition, structure, or ecological processes in a manner that may impair its ecological integrity, such as an invasive species, loss of connectivity, or the disruption of a natural disturbance regime (FSH 1909.12, Zero Code).

<sup>1</sup> 36 CFR § 219.6 (b)(3), 2015, <https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/CFR-2015-title36-vol2/pdf/CFR-2015-title36-vol2-sec219-6.pdf>, U.S. Government Publishing Office.

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## Draft Manti-La Sal National Forest Drivers

-  Climate change
-  Wildfire
-  Natural vegetation succession
-  Landslides/Geologic hazards

## Draft Manti-La Sal National Forest Stressors

Draft Manti-La Sal National Forest Stressors	
Ecological Stressors	 <b>Climate Change</b> ○ Temperatures, drought
	 <b>Wildfire</b>
	 <b>Insects and Disease</b> ( <i>epidemic levels</i> ) ○ Beetle-killed trees
	 <b>Invasive Species</b>
	 <b>Tree Encroachment</b>
Social/Multiple Use Stressors	 <b>Increased Human Populations/Multiple Uses</b> ○ Recreation demands; home in Wildland Urban Interface (WUI); vandalism; habitat fragmentation; increased motorized uses; road system (erosion, maintenance, access)
	 <b>Livestock and Big Game</b> ○ Overgrazing
	 <b>Ground Water Withdrawals/Diversions</b>
	 <b>Mineral Exploration/Development</b> ○ Subsidence
	 <b>Air Emissions</b> ○ Acid Depositions

We invite the public to provide input on the Draft **Stressors** and **Drivers** above, using the Forest's Assessment Survey posted at <http://www.fs.usda.gov/detail/mantilasal/landmanagement/planning/?cid=fseprd509713> or by sending input to the Manti-La Sal Forest Plan Revision team at [mlnplanrevision@fs.fed.us](mailto:mlnplanrevision@fs.fed.us) or via postal mail at 599 West Price River Drive, Price, Utah 84501.